

Section 4 - West Colorado River Basin Demographics and Economic Future

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Section 4

West Colorado River Basin - Utah State Water Plan

Demographics and Economic Future

4.1 Introduction

Price, the largest city in the basin, is 75 miles from Provo (the nearest major Wasatch Front commercial center). Many of the residents in the basin do business in Richfield; which is 83 miles from Price, 50 miles from Loa and 140 miles from Escalante.

Although the trade and government sectors each exceed agriculture in employment, the economy of the West Colorado River Basin is largely characterized by agricultural commodity production, mostly beef, dairy and irrigated crops.



Main Street in Price

Alfalfa, grass hay, pasture, grain and corn are grown mainly for livestock feed within all the counties of the basin. Some dairy farms are located in Emery and Wayne counties. Mining is also a major contributor to the basin's economy, especially in Carbon and Emery counties. A major addition to agricultural production and mining is taking shape.

The West Colorado River Basin consists of stable farm and ranch enterprises and small rural communities

Although the region is lacking in adequate facilities, recreation and tourism with Capitol Reef National Park, Glen Canyon Recreation Area (Lake Powell) and the new Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument could become major economic factors in the southern portion of the basin, mostly Kane, Garfield and Wayne counties.

As growth occurs, proper planning at all levels of government will depend on reliable and consistent data. This section presents data to help local leaders anticipate the need for timely water resources development. Combining these data with the latest technology for delivering, using and conserving available water should result in coordinated planning and manageable economic growth.

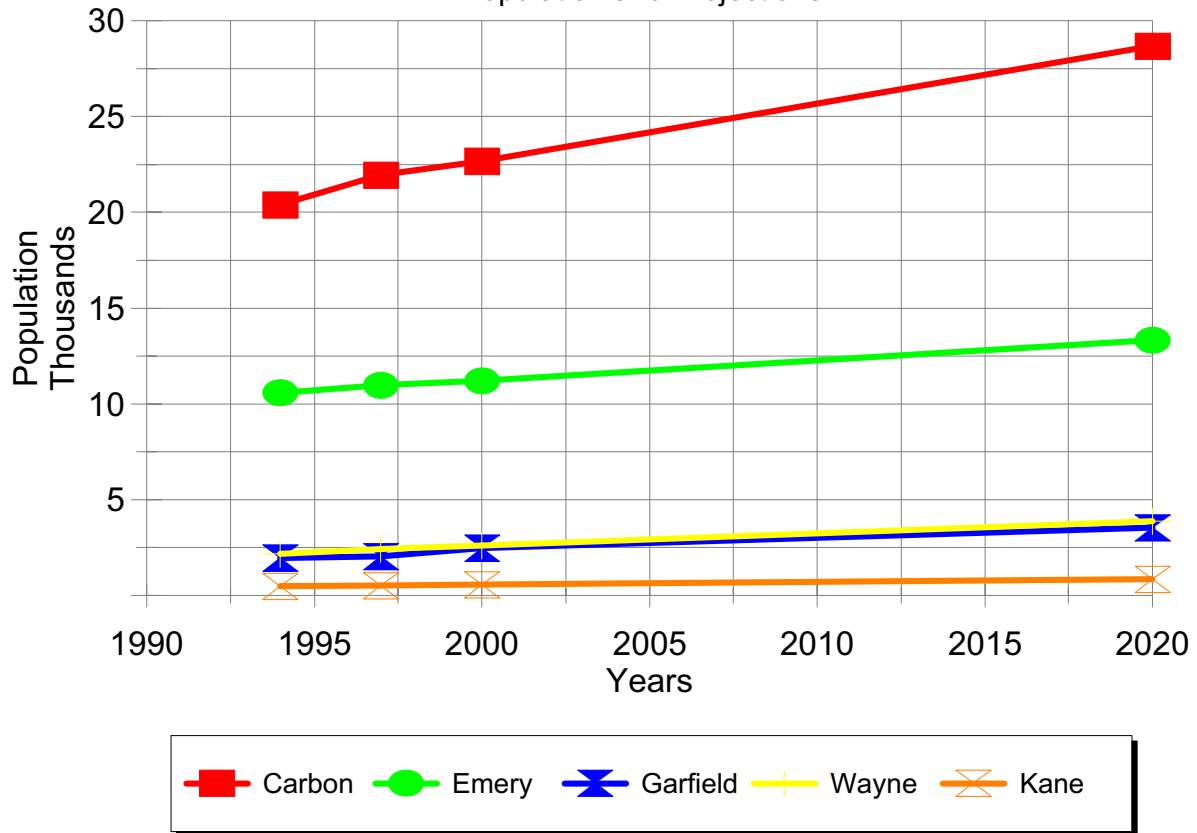
4.2 Demographics

The West Colorado River Basin population is projected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.2 percent from 1998 to 2020, which is lower than the 2.0 percent expected growth of the entire state. Percentage growth rates of counties in the basin are: Carbon, 1.2; Emery, 0.9; Garfield, 2.0; Wayne, 2.0; and Kane, 1.9. The towns of Boulder and Torrey will experience the greatest percentage growth rates, while Price and Helper will have the greatest population increases. (See Table 4-1, Figure 4-1.)

Table 4-1
Basin Population and Projections

County/City	Year				
	1990	1998	2000	2010	2020
Carbon					
East Carbon	1,264	1,517	1,550	1,724	1,913
Helper	2,141	2,423	2,477	2,755	3,058
Price	8,716	9,239	9,480	10,740	12,136
Scofield	40	56	57	65	72
Sunnyside	333	328	335	372	413
Wellington	1,616	1,806	1,853	2,100	2,373
Unincorporated Area	6,049	6,783	6,946	8,276	8,718
Total County	20,159	22,152	22,698	26,032	28,683
Emery					
Castle Dale	1,702	1,800	1,836	2,079	2,162
Clawson	151	159	163	185	192
Cleveland	499	556	568	644	670
Elmo	267	281	287	325	338
Emery	298	260	266	302	314
Ferron	1,610	1,739	1,777	2,035	2,116
Green River (partially located in Grand Co.)	758	704	718	813	846
Huntington	1,867	1,921	1,963	2,228	2,317
Orangeville	1,451	1,674	1,708	1,934	2,011
Unincorporated Area	1,712	1,963	1,925	2,343	2,376
Total County	10,315	11,057	11,211	12,888	13,342
Wayne					
Bicknell	331	340	354	390	438
Loa	450	499	506	547	494
Lyman	199	223	227	250	277
Torrey	123	145	153	200	254
Unincorporated Area	1,086	1,306	1,381	1,822	2,240
Total County	2,189	2,513	2,621	3,209	3,703
Garfield					
Boulder	125	225	250	350	450
Cannonville	129	147	157	177	202
Escalante	813	994	1,063	1,354	1,546
Henrieville	160	165	169	193	220
Tropic	375	414	430	569	639
Unincorporated Area	100	130	140	160	180
Total County	1,702	2,075	2,209	2,803	3,237
Kane					
Big Water	326	420	450	662	845
Unincorporated Area	140	167	174	210	252
Total County	466	587	624	872	1,097
Basin Total	34,831	38,384	39,363	45,804	50,062
Source: 1990 estimates are from U. S. Bureau of Census. Projections for 1998 and beyond have been produced by the Southeastern Association of Governments, controlled by the Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget county totals. Note: Garfield and Kane counties are only partially located within the basin.					

Figure 4-1
Population and Projections



The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (GOPB) has developed the procedures and criteria for making population projections. The Utah Process Economic and Demographic (UPED) model is part of this. Local planners in the Association of Governments (AOGs) office prepared the population estimates for GOPB review. The projection model takes into account many variables regarding the demographics and industrial mix of an area. This model incorporates historical employment growth rates into the future growth patterns. Assumptions regarding labor force participation rates, non-employment related migration rates, and constant age-specific fertility and survival rates are also incorporated.

4.3 Employment

In Carbon County, government is the largest employment sector with 2,255 employees in 1998. The trade sector is second with 2,080, followed by

services with 1,890. Agriculture and finance, insurance and real estate had the lowest employment with 243 and 187 respectively. The outlook for Carbon County employment is positive with a 33 percent increase projected from 1998 to 2020. The fastest growing sector will be construction with a 64 percent increase. Services are predicted to increase 58 percent. Agriculture is the only sector showing negative growth. Employment in this sector is expected to decline from 243 in 1998 to 210 in 2020. Mining jobs are expected to increase 26 percent during this period.

In Emery County, mining is the largest job provider with 948 jobs in 1998. Government and self-employed (non-farm proprietors) are close behind with 891 and 820 jobs respectively. Transportation, communication and public utilities (TCPU) have employment of 773, while services and trades provide 457 and 446 jobs respectively. Looking to the future, construction employment is

expected to grow from 282 in 1998 to 722 in 2020, an increase of 156 percent. The service sector is expected to show employment growth of 51 percent. Agriculture and manufacturing are projected to lose 14 and 19 percent respectively by 2020. Other sectors will see increases of between 8.9 percent in TCPU to almost 25 percent in mining.

In Garfield County, services is the leading employment sector with 880 jobs in 1998. Non-farm proprietors is a distant second with 535, and government is third with 531. Trade is in fourth place with 296 jobs, just ahead of agriculture with 280. Most sectors will experience strong growth from 1998 to 2020, led by manufacturing with 57 percent. Agriculture will lose 14 percent of its jobs, while all other sectors will see increases from 19 to 54 percent.

In Wayne County, the leading employment sectors are government with 317 jobs, services with 292 jobs and agriculture with 250 jobs. In the future, agriculture will lose jobs, while government, services, trade and construction jobs will increase.

Table 4-2 and Figure 4-2 show employment changes for the entire basin, minus Kane County where only the small community of Big Water is located within the West Colorado River Basin.

4.4 Economic Future ⁴¹

Natural resources such as coal, oil and natural gas will continually play an important role in the economic future of the West Colorado River Basin. Coal mining in Carbon and Emery counties will continue its importance, although some experts insist there are only about 30 years of minable ore remaining. The new methane gas production facilities show promise to provide another boost to these local economies. The vast tar sand and oil shale resources found throughout the basin could be an economic boom to local economies should another 1970-style energy crisis develop.



Business district in Tropic

Tourism is becoming very important to all the counties in the basin and will increase dramatically as the area becomes more widely known and more tourist-related facilities are built. The national parks, monuments and Lake Powell are important resources for basin residents, and their future use and visitation will continue to influence the local and regional economies. The recent federal-state land exchange in Kane County (although all counties within the basin were affected) could have a huge impact on the economy of the southern portion of the basin. Kane County would like to market this land to developers for tourist-related facilities and possible retirement communities. While agriculture will continue to decline in employment, it is expected to maintain its position as a generator of local income and a source of animal and feed products for the state. But increased wilderness, federal government allotment decreases and other environmental constraints all threaten the economic viability of the cattle-ranching business. ●

Table 4-2 Basin Employment Projections					
Industry	Year				
	1990	1998	2000	2010	2020
Carbon County					
Agriculture ^a	240	243	241	228	210
Mining	1,359	1,133	1,222	1,520	1,428
Construction	142	271	301	396	445
Manufacturing	288	480	538	580	527
TCPU ^b	467	518	535	611	683
Trade	1,764	2,080	2,127	2,388	2,650
FIRE ^c	164	187	191	214	233
Services ^d	1,459	1,890	1,990	2,504	2,983
Government	2,021	2,255	2,319	2,738	3,024
Non-Farm Proprietors ^e	1,240	1,436	1,482	1,687	1,838
Total Employment	9,144	10,493	10,946	12,866	14,021
Non-Agriculture W&S	7,649	8,801	9,208	10,935	11,959
Emery County					
Agriculture ^a	500	506	502	475	437
Mining	1,002	948	979	1,341	1,183
Construction	267	282	383	646	722
Manufacturing	13	69	98	103	56
TCPU ^b	766	773	773	797	842
Trade	437	446	446	490	513
FIRE ^c	42	45	45	50	53
Services ^d	286	457	476	599	689
Government	819	891	875	961	1,054
Non-Farm Proprietors ^e	745	820	827	925	980
Total Employment	4,877	5,237	5,404	6,387	6,529
Non-Agriculture W&S	3628	3,908	4,071	4,983	5,108
Garfield County (Includes portion in Sevier River Drainage)					
Agriculture ^a	286	280	278	263	242
Mining	7	125	128	143	149
Construction	23	82	80	86	98
Manufacturing	209	110	116	146	173
TCPU ^b	59	115	120	147	168
Trade	189	296	308	379	431
FIRE ^c	22	25	26	30	32
Services ^d	517	880	940	1,239	1,496
Government	459	531	547	697	792
Non-Farm Proprietors ^e	352	535	561	713	818
Total Employment	2,123	2,979	3,104	3,843	4,399
Non-Agriculture W&S	1,474	2,151	2,252	2,852	3,324

Table 4-2 (continued)
Basin Employment Projection

Industry	Year				
	1990	1998	2000	2010	2020
Wayne					
Agriculture ^a	249	250	249	235	217
Mining	0	1	1	2	2
Construction	40	54	72	126	148
Manufacturing	76	41	41	46	53
TCPU ^b	10	24	25	31	37
Trade	82	195	204	253	304
FIRE ^c	0	9	9	11	13
Services ^d	68	292	311	411	511
Government	273	317	320	371	431
Non-Farm Proprietors ^e	132	194	205	260	311
Total Employment	930	1,377	1,437	1,746	2,027
Non-Agriculture W&S Employment ^a	542	926	977	1,244	1,492
Basin Totals^f					
Agriculture ^a	1,275	1,276	1,270	1,201	1,106
Mining	2,368	2,207	2,330	3,006	2,762
Construction	472	689	836	1,254	1,413
Manufacturing	586	700	793	875	809
TCPU ^b	1,302	1,430	1,453	1,586	1,730
Trade	2,472	3,017	3,085	3,510	3,898
FIRE ^c	228	266	271	305	331
Services ^d	2,330	3,519	3,717	4,753	5,679
Government	3,572	3,994	4,061	4,767	5,301
Non-Farm Proprietors ^e	2,469	2,985	3,075	3,585	3,947
Total Employment	17,074	20,083	20,891	24,842	26,976
Non-Agriculture W&S Employment ^a	13,293	15,786	16,508	20,014	21,883

^aAgriculture and non-agriculture wage and salary employment includes specific agriculture support services.

^bTransportation, communications and public utilities.

^cFinance, insurance and real estate.

^dIncludes private household employment; excludes agricultural employment.

^eUtah Department of Employment Security definition.

^fBasin Totals include all employment within Carbon, Emery, Garfield and Wayne counties, even though Garfield and Wayne counties are only partially included in the West Colorado River Basin. Also, Kane County is not shown because only the community of Big Water is located in the basin.

Figure 4-2

EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

